

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 3, 8, 14, and 18 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for safely accessing shared storage media in a computer environment having two or more nodes comprising:  
reading a storage media label in response to an access request to storage media;  
obtaining a hardware identifier from said storage media;  
comparing said hardware identifier of said storage media with a hardware identifier field of said label;

establishing access rights of said nodes to said storage media, the step of establishing access rights is responsive at least in part to a hard attribute of said shared storage media, wherein said hard attribute includes said a hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations thereof; and

accessing said storage media by one of said nodes according to said access rights.

2. Canceled

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing access rights includes creating a said label including said hard attribute, a type field, and a node identifier field.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of allowing access of a node to said storage media if said type field indicates said storage media is node-owned and said node identifier matches a node identifier of said node.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said label further includes:  
a cluster identifier; and  
further comprising the step of allowing access of a node in a cluster to said storage

media if said type field indicates said storage media is cluster-owned and said cluster identifier matches a cluster identifier of said node.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said label further includes an activity interval field and an activity counter field for protecting ownership of said storage media.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer environment is a storage area network.

8. (Currently Amended) A computing environment comprising:

two or more nodes;

shared storage media;

said storage media having a label and ~~said storage media having~~ a hard attribute;

an access manager to read said label in response to a storage media access request, to obtain a hardware identifier from said storage media, and to compare said hardware identifier of said storage media with a hardware identifier field in said label;

said ~~hard attribute includes~~ a hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations thereof; and

~~an access manager for each of at least two of said nodes,~~ said manager to provide ~~provides~~ access to said storage media responsive at least in part to receipt of said hard attribute.

9. Canceled

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said access manager provides access to said storage media in response at least in part to a label, said label including said hard attribute, a type field, and a node identifier field.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, further comprising a positive access response from said

access manager if said type field indicates said media is node-owned and said node identifier field matches a node identifier of said node.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said label further includes a cluster identifier field; and further comprising a positive access response from said access manager if said type field indicates said media is cluster-owned and said cluster identifier matches a cluster identifier of said node.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said label further comprises an activity data field and an activity counter field to protect ownership of said media.

14. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:  
a computer-readable recordable data storage medium;  
means in the medium for reading a storage media label in response to an access request to shared storage media;  
means in the medium for obtaining a hardware identifier from said storage media;  
means in the medium for comparing said hardware identifier of said storage media with a hardware identifier field of said label;  
means in the medium for accessing shared storage media, said shared storage media having a hard attribute including a hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations thereof;  
means in the medium for establishing access rights of at least two nodes to said storage media at least in part in response to receipt of said hard attribute; and  
means in the medium for managing an access request to said storage media ~~in response~~ according to said access rights.

15. Cancel

16. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein said managing means grants a positive access

request to a node responsive to confirmation of node ownership of said media.

17. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein said managing means grants a positive access request to a node in a cluster responsive to confirmation of cluster ownership of said media.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for safely accessing shared storage media in a computing environment having two or more nodes comprising:

(a) writing a label, said label being determined at least in part by a hardware identifier of said storage media, said hardware identifier including data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, and a serial number of said storage media;

reading said label in response to an access request to said storage media;

obtaining said hardware identifier from said storage media;

comparing said hardware identifier of said storage media with a hardware identifier field of said label;

(b) establishing access rights of a node to said storage media according to said label; and

⊕ coordinating access to said storage media according to said label.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of allowing access of a node to said storage media if a type field in said label indicates said storage media is node-owned and a node identifier in said label matches a node identifier of said node.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of allowing access of a node in a cluster to said media if a type field in said label indicates said storage media is cluster-owned and a cluster identifier in said label matches a cluster identifier of said node.